

REMARKS

The Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed February 26, 2004 by the Office. At the time of this Office Action, Claims 1-25 were pending in the Application, of which Claims 1-25 were rejected. In order to advance prosecution of this case, Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9, 11-15, 17-20, 22, 24 and 25 have been amended to overcome the rejections asserted by the Office, to correct various informalities and to state more clearly what the Applicants claim as their invention. It is believed that the amended claims do not involve any introduction of new matters, whereby entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

The following actions were taken or matters raised: (I) Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sansom-Wai et al. (US Patent No. 6,310,984); (II) Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hulan et al. (US Patent No. 5,987,270); (III) Claims 4 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sansom-Wai et al. (US Patent No. 6,310,984); (IV) Claims 7, 10 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sansom-Wai et al. (US Patent No. 6,310,984) and further in view of Liao (US Patent No. 5,467,172); (V) Claims 17, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sansom-Wai et al. (US Patent No. 6,310,984) and further in view of Hulan et al. (US Patent No. 5,987,270); (VI) Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Sansom-Wai et al. (US Patent No. 6,310,984) and in view of Liao (US Patent No. 5,467,172), and further in view of Hulan et al. (US Patent No. 5,987,270).

I. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, 18-20 and 24 Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) – Sansom-Wai et al.

The Office has rejected Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, 18-20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sansom-Wai et al. (US Patent No. 6,310, 984). Amended independent Claims 1, 14 and 24, and hence any claims dependent thereon, include novel physical features that provide new and advantageous results in view of Sansom-Wai, making such amended Claims novel, non-obvious and, thus, patentable over Sansom-Wai. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) applied to Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, 18-20 and 24 is overcome and respectfully requests the Office to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, 18-20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sansom-Wai.

As amended, Claim 1 recites a method for detecting deviations in the surface of a document comprising scanning the document to create an image of the document, wherein said scanning is performed in a manner configured for actively promoting generation of information corresponding to surface deviations associated with at least one

edge of the document in the image, and identifying said at least one edge of the document by recognizing said surface deviations in the image. As amended, Claim 14 recites a surface deviation detector comprising a platen configured for enabling placement of a document thereon, at least one light source adjacent to the platen and configured for illuminating an area of the platen upon which the document is placed, at least one sensor configured for generating image information associated with the document and for actively promoting generation of information corresponding to surface deviations corresponding to at least one surface deviation associated with an edge of the document, and an information analysis module configured for analyzing said image and surface deviation information and identifying said at least one edge of the document by recognizing said at least one surface deviation. As amended, Claim 24 recites a scanner system comprising at least one light source operable to illuminate a document having edges, at least one sensor operable to detect said illumination of the document and said edges, and an information analysis module. The sensor is configured for enabling generation of information corresponding to at least one surface deviation associated with at least one of said edges of the document to be actively promoted. The information analysis module is configured for analyzing said image and surface deviation information and for identifying said at least one of said edges of the document by recognizing said at least one surface deviation.

Methods, surface deviation detectors and scanner systems in accordance with amended Claims 1, 14 and/or 24 and associated dependent claims exhibit physical and/or functional distinctions that are novel, advantageous and non-obvious in view of Sansom-Wai. An example of such physical and/or functional distinctions is actively promoting generation of information corresponding to surface deviations associated with at least one edge of the document in the image. Sansom-Wai makes no mention of and does not present any motivation for actively promoting generation of information corresponding to surface deviations associated with at least one edge of the document in an image. It is disclosed by Sansom-Wai (e.g., col. 1, lines 48-55 and col. 4, lines 28-39) that generation of information corresponding to edges of an image of a document is sometimes incidental to scanning of a document, rather than an operation that is actively promoted. Furthermore, it should be understood that Sansom-Wai provides no structure for enabling such generation of information corresponding to surface deviations associated with at least one edge of the document in an image to be actively promoted.

II. Claim 25 Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) – Hulan et al.

The Office has rejected Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hulan et al. (US Patent No. 5,987,270). Amended independent Claim 25 and hence any claims dependent thereon, include novel physical features that provide new and advantageous results in view of Hulan, making such amended Claim novel, non-obvious and, thus, patentable over Hulan. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the rejection

under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) applied to Claim 25 is overcome and respectfully requests the Office to withdraw the rejection of Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hulan.

As amended, Claim 25 recites a scanner system comprising a low resolution scan system operable to actively promote generation of information corresponding to surface deviations associated with at least one edge of the document and to detect said at least one edge, and a high resolution scan system operable to perform a scan of an area at least partially defined by said at least one edge detected by the low resolution scan system.

Scanner systems in accordance with amended Claim 25 exhibit physical and/or functional distinctions that are novel, advantageous and non-obvious in view of Hulan. An example of such physical and/or functional distinctions is actively promoting generation of information corresponding to surface deviations associated with at least one edge of the document in the image. Hulan makes no mention of and does not present any motivation for actively promoting generation of information corresponding to surface deviations associated with at least one edge of the document in an image.

III. Claims 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 21, 22 and 23 Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Office has rejected Claims 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 21, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over at least one of Sansom-Wai (US Patent No.

6,310,984), Liao (US Patent No. 5,467,172) and Hulan (US Patent No. 5,987,270). The Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 21, 22 and 23 in view of Sansom-Wai, Liao, and/or Hulan is traversed. Specifically, in view of the amendments and remarks presented above with respect to rejection of Claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), the Applicants submit that Claim 1 and 14, upon which claims 2-13 and 14-23 depend, respectively, is novel and non-obvious with respect to Sansom-Wai, Liao, and/or Hulan. Hence, Claims 2-13 and 14-23 are novel and non-obvious with respect to Sansom-Wai, Liao, and/or Hulan.

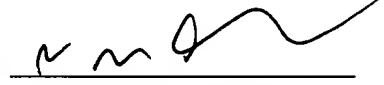
IV. Amendments to Miscellaneous Other Claims

Other claims have been amended to correct various informalities and/or to more clearly recite the claimed subject matter. It is believed that the amended claims do not involve any introduction of new matters, whereby entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for reasons clearly apparent, the Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims. If there are any matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of the Application, the Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at 512-372-8240 at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully Submitted,
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